every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above that level. The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for individual sugar factories is fixed with reference to these parameters.

Rotting of rice in godowns

169. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 35 lakh tons of rice is rotting in Government godowns for want of takers;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have refused to accept rice from the Union Government since the rice, which is lying in Government godowns, is not fit for human consumption;

(c) if so, the total value of such rice rotting in Government godowns;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the purchase of such inferior quality rice;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how Government propose to dispose of such huge stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

However, some of the State Governments have expressed reservation in accepting rice procured under relaxed specification due to unseasonal rains in Punjab during 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.